

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 The instant invention comprises a hydroprocessing method having at least two  
4 stages. The first stage employs a hydroprocessing catalyst which may contain  
5 hydrotreating catalyst, hydrocracking catalyst, or a combination of both. The  
6 second stage is limited to hydrocracking. Conversion in the second stage may  
7 be improved by the addition of multiple reaction zones for hydrocracking, with  
8 flash separation zones between the stages. Middle distillate yield is thereby  
9 increased and the volume of the recycle stream is reduced. This invention  
10 reduces the need for equipment which would normally be required for a large  
11 recycle stream.